

through Portland, Seattle, etc., and will stop one day at Rochester, Minn., for a visit to the Mayo clinic. This is but the first of many special trains that will be made up to bring members from various parts of the country, but we are glad to notice that our friends in New York have begun early to arrange matters so as to be with us this June. Good luck and a pleasant trip to them.

"PHYSICIANS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION" NOT ENDORSED BY STATE SOCIETY.

We have been advised that an organization or association calling itself "The Physicians' Protective Association" and ostensibly formed for collecting accounts of physicians and dentists and issuing policies of protection against alleged malpractice, claims to have the endorsement of the State Society. The concern has been operating in Los Angeles and has more recently opened an office for business in San Francisco. It in no way has the endorsement of the State Society or any other society that we know of and any claim so made is probably for the purpose of misleading our members. We do not know much about this association but it can be taken for granted that any concern that starts out by misrepresentation is one to be avoided.

WORTH REPETITION.

The following quotation from the *Bulletin* of the Lake County (Ind.), Medical Society, touching as it does on a point so often mentioned in these columns, is well worthy of perusal. Doctors are notoriously easy to get into wildcat companies, mines, oil schemes and the like. If they would but ask advice or take counsel, they would save themselves many and many thousands of dollars:

Has it ever occurred to you as being peculiar that so many stocks are offered to physicians? It hardly seems possible that the salesmen who have various good things to offer, should all be philanthropists, and yet, one would gain that opinion after listening to their talk a few moments. The fact is, physicians are generally regarded as "easy marks" by stock salesmen. We have yet to hear of any of our friends getting in on a good thing through the offers of these salesmen, but know of many cases to the contrary. Give them the "once over" before listening too intently.

MAIL-ORDER FRAUDS AND OTHER PAMPHLETS.

"Medical Mail-Order Frauds" is the title of a recently issued pamphlet from the Propaganda department of the A. M. A., and it is to be had from the Chicago office for the nominal price of ten cents. A number of other pamphlets dealing with various sorts of frauds, quacks and bunks have been issued and it would be an excellent thing if physicians generally would get a few copies of these pamphlets and hand them to occasional laymen or patients to read; it all helps to spread the good work of education. The Propaganda Department, working in co-operation with the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, is doing a tremendously valuable task for the good of the people. More power to it.

COUNTY UNITS, BE CAREFUL!

We cannot too often call attention to the fact that a large number of unqualified physicians are being granted licenses to practice in this state under the present law, and that all county units should exercise the greatest care in investigating applicants for membership. A recently published article from a member of the Board of Medical Examiners admits this condition of things, and the records in the office of the State Society amply prove it. Many persons are securing licenses now, who have been rejected over and over in years past, under the old law. What the present legislature will do is, of course, an unknown quantity, but the activity of the osteopaths, some disgruntled factions in the regular ranks and a horde of quacks, is well known. Letting down the bars and reducing standards required for the practice of medicine is what legislatures call "being fair and liberal to all"; but is it fair to the people to allow these quacks to pillage them? The trend of things, not alone in this state but also in many others, seems to indicate that it will be easier and easier for almost anyone to get some sort of a license to practice something—which is but a roundabout way of getting a right to practice medicine and surgery, though totally unqualified to do so. It seems probable that we must reconcile ourselves to the inevitable coming of the time when a license to practice will not mean much of anything as an indication of the ability of the licensed one to care for the sick or injured. What is to be done? It is useless for us to plead with the legislature for they say we are biased and unfair and a "medical trust." The one only hope in sight, seems to be to build up our county societies, in quality and not quantity merely, and to safeguard and protect membership so that it will be a real badge of qualification to practice medicine. In other words, make membership in the Society take the place, so far as practical purposes go, of the state license to practice. Think it over and see how you can help do this.

SPLENDID WORK.

The "Propaganda for Reform" department of the A. M. A. has done and is doing splendid work in uncovering frauds in patent medicines, quackery, etc., and it should receive our sincere respect and support. It has just issued a catalogue of lantern slides made up to illustrate a large number of these fakes in lectures to the public, and it would be an excellent thing if some of the county units would look into this matter, send for the catalogue and arrange to give one or more public lectures, illustrated with lantern slides, for the benefit of the public. Any sort of a lantern slide show will draw a good many people and so much beneficial enlightening would result. A request to the A. M. A. office will bring the catalogue, "Lantern Slides and Exhibit Cards" and the prices are very reasonable. Try it.